

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. All amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;
at a device, opening a second connection to the server;
selecting ~~an active connection~~ , from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection; and
communicating information ~~configured for~~ via the active connection using the information exchange protocol ~~using the active connection~~ established for the first connection.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol using the first connection as the active connection prior to selecting the second connection as the active connection.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the second connection is opened prior to establishing the information exchange protocol.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 in which a single one of the connections is selected as the active connection.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which two or more ~~of the~~ connections are selected as the active connection.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the second connection includes a wireless connection.

7. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 or 6 further comprising~~
A method comprising:
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;
at the device, opening a second connection to the server;
selecting from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection;
communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol using the active connection; and
monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of ~~signal strength~~, transmittal rate, latency, and cost of transmittal, ~~and connection integrity~~; and
reselecting the active connection to optimize the parameter.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the information is communicated in packets that include aggregated information for more than one application.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, 4, or 6 in which the information includes a command that is effected by a module on the server.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the information comprises an aggregation of information from applications, the extent of aggregation for each application being dependent on an indicator of priority for information exchange associated with each application.

11. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 9 in which the~~
A method comprising:
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;
at the device, opening a second connection to the server;
selecting, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active
connection; and
communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol using the
active connection, the information comprising a
command that causes the server to contact a remote system, receive a reply from the
remote system, and effect a response without transmitting the reply to the device.

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 17 in which a single one of the
connections is selected as the active connection.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 17 in which the information is
communicated in packets, ~~each of at least some~~ one or more of the packets ~~includes~~ comprising
aggregated information for different applications on the device.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 16 in which the module effects~~
A method comprising:

at a server, accepting connections from a device for communicating information configured by an information exchange protocol;
detecting or selecting one or more of the connections as an active connection; and
receiving information configured by the information exchange protocol using the active connection, the information comprising a command for a module on the server; and
effecting the command by contacting a remote server, receiving a reply from the remote server and effecting a response without transmitting the reply to the device.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~12, 13, or~~ 17 in which the information is an aggregation of information for applications, the extent of aggregation for each application being dependent on an indicator of priority for information exchange associated with each application.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising a processor and software configured to cause the processor to:

- open a first connection to a server;
- establish an information exchange protocol;
- open a second connection to a server;
- select ~~an active connection~~, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection; and
- communicate information via the active connection using ~~configured for the information exchange protocol using the active~~ established for the first connection.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the processor is further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and
reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets includes aggregated information for different local applications.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

23. (currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

open a first connection to a server;
establish an information exchange protocol;
open a second connection to a server;
select ~~an active connection~~ , from the connections, a connection to be an active connection; and
communicate information ~~configured for~~ via the active connection using the information exchange protocol ~~using the active~~ established for the first connection.

24. (original) The article of claim 23 in which a single one of the connections is selected as the active connection.

25. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the instructions further cause the machine to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and
reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

26. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the information is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets includes aggregated information for different local applications.

27. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the information includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

28. (currently amended) A system comprising:
a device, a server, and communication links, in which the device is configured to:
open a first connection to the server using one of the communication links;
establish an information exchange protocol;
open a second connection to the server using another of the communication links;
select ~~an active connection~~, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection;
communicate information ~~configured for~~ via the active connection using the information exchange protocol ~~using the active~~ established for the first connection.

29. (original) The system of claim 28 in which at least one of the communication links includes a wireless communication link.

30. (currently amended) The system of claim 28 ~~or 29~~ in which the device is further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and
reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

31. (new) The method of claim 1 in which the device compares its geographic position to the range of one of the connections.

32. (new) The method of claim 1 in which the device retains outgoing information until reception is acknowledged.

33. (new) The method of claim 32 in which the device monitors a buffer that retains outgoing information to determine whether to transmit additional outgoing information.

34. (new) The method of claim 1 in which the device implements software-based application sockets to connect application input/output streams to the server.

35. (new) The method of claim 7 in which the parameter comprises transmittal rate.

36. (new) The method of claim 7 in which the parameter comprises latency.

37. (new) The method of claim 7 in which the parameter comprises cost of transmittal.

38. (new) A method comprising:
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;
at a device, opening a second connection to the server;
selecting, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection and another connection to be a passive connection; and
communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol using the active connection, while maintaining the passive connection.

39. (new) The method of claim 38 in which the information is communicated in packets that include aggregated information for more than one application.

40. (new) The method of claim 38 in which the information comprises a command for a module on the server; and the method comprises effecting the command by contacting a remote server, receiving a reply from the remote server and effecting a response without transmitting the reply to the device.

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41. (new) The method of claim 38 that comprises monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity